Waiting list of General Category subscribers in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana

1188 SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details as on 1st February, 1997 of the waiting list of the general category subscriberyapplicants in the States of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana;

(b) the details in regard to the telephone connections provided during the first nine months of the current financial year; and

(c) the steps being taken by Govern ment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VAR-MA): (a) The details of the waiting list of "general category" subscribers as on 1st February, 97 in Punjab, U.P., Bihar, and Haryana are given below:

Stale	Waiting list
Punjab	2,23,978
U.P.	1,69,193
Bihar	59,780
Haryana	1,01,256

(b) The details in regard to the telephone connections provided during the first nine months (April' 96 to December' 96) of the current financial year is as given below:

State	No. of Telephone connections provided
Punjab	51729
U.P.	87901
Bihar	20362
Haryana	22503

(c) Planning has been made to clear the above waiting list of U.P.(E), U.P.(W) and Bihar progressively during 97-98, and in ihe case of Punjab and Haryana during 98-99.

Demand and Supply of Telephones

1189. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the month-wise and year-wise details of demand and supply of telephone connections at present in the country, Stale-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between the demand and supply lo telephone connections in the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VAR-MA): (a) Details of demand and supply of telephone connections, State-wise, and month-wise at present (April % to January 97) is given in Annexure and the same year-wise for the last three years is also given in Annexure. [See *Appendix 180 Annexure No. 29]*

(c) and (c) Growth rate for telephone demand in the country steadily increased from 9.24% (1993-94) to 19.31% (1995-96). The resource allocation and availability of other infrastructure are being stepped up during Ninth Five Year Plan lo improve the supply of telephone connections in the country.

Construction of Postal Building in Kutch District

1190. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that plots of land were acquired by Government for the purpose of construction of postal buildings five years back in villages Naliya, Khavda, Kera, Kukma and Lakadia in Kutch district;

(b) if so, whether any construction work has been started there so far;